Criminal cases pending in the Courts

3327. SHRI RAMDAS AGARWAL: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the massive backlog of 2.17 crore criminal cases pending in courts throughout the country till the end of 1994;

(b) if so, the State-wise details thereof for the years 1994, 1995 and 1996 till date; and

(c) the reasons for sluggish rate of disposal of criminal cases by the Courts and the steps taken by Government so far to dispose of such cases?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI RAMAKANT D. KHALAP): (a) to (c) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Proposal from Government of Orissa for the Construction of Yatri Niwas in the State

3328. SHRI RAHASBIHARI BARIK: SHRI BHAGABAN MAJHI:

Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the proposals received from the Orissa Government for construction of yatri Niwas in the state; and

(b) the action taken by the Central Government thereon along with amount sanctioned thereof for 1997-98?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND TOURISM (SHRI SRIKANTA KUMAR JENA): (a) The details of the Yatri Niwases sanctioned for the state of Orissa are as follows:—

ORISSA Project	Amount Sanctioned (Rs. in lakhs)
1985-86	
1. Yatri Niwas at Satpada.	26.50
1986-87	
1. Yatri Niwas at Konark.	29.25
1991-92	
1. Yatri Niwas at Chandipur	44.85
1992-93	
1. Yatri Niwas at Puri	44.85

(b) The Department of Tourism in consultation with the State Governments prioritises proposals for Central Financial Assistance. The proposals from the State Governments for 1997-98 are awaited.

Tourism Development Plan Scheme

3329. SHRI ANANTRAY DEVSHANKER DAVE: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have drawn up a tourism development plan scheme with the association of Indian Railways and other agencies for every State during the current financial year;

(b) if so, the main features of the plan;

(c) the State-wise details including Gujarat State Tourism Plan and the arrangements held between Centre and State Government and tours operators in this regard; and

(d) the plan allocation made for the purpose during the current budget plan?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND TOURISM (SHRI SRIKANTA KUMAR JENA): (a) to (c) The Department of Tourism Government of India prioritised schemes in consultation with the State Governments for central financial assistance. Wherever necessary, Ministry of Railways, Department of Culture, ASI etc. are consulted and particular projects taken up in conjunction with them. Schemes such as "Palace on

Wheels" and the "Royal Orient Express" trains have been made operational by the State Government of Rajasthan and Gujarat in collaboration with the Ministry of Railways.

(d) For the current financial year (97-98), a budgetary outlay of Rs. 110.35 crores has been approved for the Department of Tourism. The project proposals for 1997-98 are to be submitted by the State Governments.

Promotion of Pilgrim Tourism in Uttar Pradesh

3330. SHRI RAJNATH SINGH SURYA: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) what are the schemes and their details under Government have initiated to promote pilgrim tourism in U.P.;

(b) what is the rate and contribution of the State Government in those schemes;

(c) whether Government have any special plan to develop pilgrim tourism in that State as the U.P. has innumerable ancient religious and cultural sites as compared to other States;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND TOURISM (SHRI SRIKANTA KUMAR JENA): (a) The Department of Tourism has schemes under infrastructural development for creation of Yatri Niwas, tourist bungalows, wayside amenities, public conveniences, under which it has given central financial assistance for development of pilgrim tourism in U.P. The details of these schemes are enclosed in the statement-I. (*see* below). Apart from that, infrastructural development under the OECF (Externally Assisted Project Scheme) has also been undertaken at various places in U.P. which form a part of the Budhist Circuit.

(b) The schemes of the Department of Tourism for infrastructural development are by way of grant. The State Governments contribute the land and maintain and operate the projects. In case of the OECF projects, the State Governments have to incur the expenditure first after which the eligible amount is reimbursed from the OECF. The OECF project is by way of loan assistance to the Government.

(c) to (e) The Department of Tourism has set up a Special Task Force to study the tourism potential in the Himalayan Region. The hilly regions of the State of U.P. also form part of this Task Force study. The Department of Tourism has introduced a scheme for development of pilgrim centres whereby funds are provided to charitable institutions and trusts for setting up facilities for pilgrims.

Statement

Schemes of Pilgrim Tourism

Name of the Project	Amount sanctioned
Tourist Complex at Sravasti	63.00
Tourist bungalow at Mathura	27.64
Stage for Open air theatre and wayside amenities at Ayodhya	26.80
Swiss cottages for Kumbh Mela at Haridwar	15.73
Toilet and drinking water facilities at Sarnath, Kushinagar, Sravasti and Fatehpur Sikri	6.00
Yatri Niwas at Allahabad	29.42